

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 31-39 are presented for consideration, with claim 31 being independent. By this amendment, claims 1-30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 31, 32 and 34 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Non-elected Claims 10-30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer solely to expedite allowance.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 31-39 are allowed and that Claim 6 recites allowable subject matter. Claim 6 has been cancelled herein because the Examiner deemed it to be a duplicate of Claim 31. Claims 31, 32 and 34 have been amended herein to improve their form, but are believed to remain in condition for allowance. The changes have not been made for any reasons related to patentability.

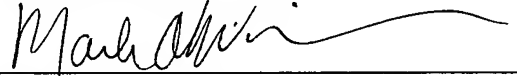
Claims 1-5 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1-5 and 7-9 have also been cancelled herein, thus rendering this rejection moot. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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